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SUBJECT: DAILY IRAQI WEBSITE MONITORING - AUGUST 28, 2005

SUMMARY: Discussion on the Constitution was the major editorial theme of Iraqi, Arabic language websites on August 30, 2005. END SUMMARY.

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SELECTED COMMENTARIES

- 1A. "Positions Worthy of Support: Case Studies of Abid (Slave) Mutlag Al-Jaboori, Nuri Al-Rawi, and Colleagues" (Editorial by Samir Ubaid, Iraq 4 All News Website (<http://iraq4all.org>))

"Real men rise to the occasion during difficult times and crises while half-men are known by their style of confrontation. This period is presenting us with examples of half-men who have reached a state where they are demanding the division of the country and its wealth according to a basis the world has not heard before.

President Bush's representative - Khalilzad - says the constitution is a unique example in the region. And we say yes, it is. It's the only Zionist, Persian constitution in the region that will divide Iraq's land, people, stones, and create conflicting states and protectorates, achieving what Zionist leaders have called for hundreds of years ago-it's on the verge of realization in Iraq.

Here we have half-men struggling among themselves to be the ones to carry the plate that holds the head of Iraq to be presented to Bush, Sharon, Rumsfeld, and Cheney.

But Iraq is a land that gives birth to the great and courageous, and eradicates others of a different nature, so these half-men will be eliminated with their masters, and Iraq's wealth will be the flare that burns them and their descending generations.

So take your stand in the face of President Bush, Rumsfeld, and Sharon's constitution and say "No" to bring down the mutant document and those who wrote it, and act like men who weren't restricted in their positions by their posts, such as (Salih Al-Mutlag, the Deputy PM who was forced to accept the post, and Nuri Al-Rawi, the Minister of Culture and a man of national principles, Ezhar Al-Sheikhli, the constitutional expert and Minister of Women's Affairs, Saad Al-Hardan, Minister of Provincial Affairs, and Osama Al-Najafi, Minister of Industry). These people issued a statement rejecting dangerous elements in the coming constitution, and were accompanied by many other honorable National Assembly members and anti-occupation organizations including the Sadr Movement, the Islamic Scholars' Association, tribal and religious movements, the National Dialogue Council, the Sunni gathering, the Islamic Party, and other parties and movements throughout Iraq.

Don't dither over secondary issues, and let your goal be a unified Iraq which encompasses all Arabs, Kurds, Turkmen, Muslims, Christians, and others.

We hail the honorable people for whom this article was meant, all those who have expressed their position courageously, and those who will reject the constitution for a more civilized and moderate document free of occupation."

- 1B. "Sunni Arab Representatives and Legitimacy" (Editorial by Ali Al-Nadawi, Al-Anbar Website (<http://www.al-anbar.com>))

"Not a day seems to pass without a Sunni representative talking about the constitution and attacking the elected National Assembly and its designated constitutional

committee accusing them of illegitimacy.

Yesterday I was watching Al-Hurra's coverage of the constitution when a heavily bearded man appeared before a crowd of journalists saying Sunni representatives have rejected the draft and that it is illegitimate. I personally have many reservations about the draft and hope it will not be approved, but what this man said sent my mind in motion, for he was not elected nor appointed and I, the Sunni who this man is supposed to represent, have never seen or heard his name.

By his appearance he is a Wahhabi, to which I have no objection, but when did the Wahhabi doctrine come to represent the majority of Iraq's Sunnis?

When the "Sunni representatives" or "the excluded powers," though I support neither descriptions - rejected the constitution, they did so on the basis that no Sunni would consider important except for the notion of federalism which might incite some fears due to the muted interpretation of the concept presented by "Sunni representatives."

Iraqi Sunnis, whom you claim to represent, couldn't care less about the Ba'ath Party as long as no innocent people are punished, nor do they demand Islam as the sole source for legislation, especially since clerics (both Sunnis and Shiites) could never agree upon a unified Islamic law which, if realized, would have spared Iraq many of its current crises.

The government made a mistake by choosing these members. We have seen how the majority of voters in Fallujah and other areas voted for Allawi's list dismissing any sectarian considerations. Iraq's future is related to the manner through which Iraqi Sunnis will deal with the constitution and elections, and I am not calling for voting in favor of the constitution, but only to take an Iraqi and not a Sunni position towards the draft."

1C. "A Constitution or a Political Platform?"
(Editorial by Jafar Al-Husaini, An-Nahrain (The Two Rivers) Website (<http://www.nahrain.com/>))

"Unfortunately, the permanent constitution which a lot of Iraqis waited for was written in the mindset of the moment and as such it's closer to a political platform than a constitution.

A constitutional lay person would usually recommend the inclusion of a few principles and a lot of rules. More important than principles though are the mechanisms that implement these rules and maintain them.

The problem, in the difficult circumstances Iraq is experiencing, is a real lack of crisis among all parties. Lawmakers were busy with slogans imbedded in the constitution and concentrated on them more than the rules themselves.

From the beginning the Kurds insisted on the right of self determination and they treated it like an entitlement that couldn't be touched. Such an issue doesn't need an article in the constitution because when they will decide on self determination or 'separation,' call it whatever you want, there is no need for a constitutional article. Any group or people in the world don't need permission from others when they decide on their self determination.

Sunnis Arab have insisted that Iraq is a part of the Arab nation, and there simply has not been nor will there be any constitutional law or article to prevent anyone from voting on unity. The other example I will recite from a Shiite who insisted on rooting out Ba'athists. This is a case that should be settled over the next two years by referring former regime criminals to justice without mercy or delay while for others who were forced to join the party, I don't think it's appropriate to call them Ba'athists.

It would have been better for lawmakers to benefit from the 1925 and 1958 constitutions since both of them were free from slogans and included only the laws to define authorities. In any case, I think the permanent constitution needs a miracle in order not to be rejected by three governorates, not because it contains lots of gaps but because there is a real crisis in trust among Iraqis today."

Khalilzad